THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) and (b) The number of industrial disputes that are pending in the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts during the last three years are as under :

Year	Pending Cases	Pending applications
2000	10924	4710
2001	13329	5779
2002	11376	3829

(c) The pendency of industrial dispute depends on many factors including the vacant positions of Presiding Officers. Some of the reasons for pendency of cases are :—

(1) inadequate number of industrial tribunals and labour courts,

(2) parties seeking adjournments to file documents,

(3) increasing awareness on the availability of the forum,

(4) absence of affected parties at the time of hearing,

(5) parties approaching the appellate courts against order of the tribunals on preliminary points and hearing of the case getting stayed for a long time leading to delay.

(d) In order to reduce pendency of cases, a new Plan Scheme for adjudication of dispute through Lok-Adalat has been conceived in the tenth five year plan and proposal to set up five more CGIT-cum-Labour Courts has been approved. These are likely to reduce the pendency of disputes in CGIT-cum-Labour Courts.

EPF defaulters

5070. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are more than 1,00,000 pending cases involving liabilities of defaulting employers on EPF to the tune of more than Rs. 2200 crores;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce an Amnesty Scheme to the defaulting employers with waiver on penalties and immunity from prosecution; and

(c) whether Government expect early settlement of dues by the employers and also lessening burden on Courts trying the EPF cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) As on 31st March 2002, Rs. 1336.24 crores was outstanding as PF arrears.

(b) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund is considering an Amnesty Scheme.

(c) The field offices of EPFO have been instructed to monitor the cases for early disposal.

Court cases against defaulter Companies

†5071. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases filed in various courts against the various companies for not depositing the amount of contribution of provident fund;

(b) the steps Government have taken for the speedy disposal of all the pending cases and the results thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the requisite arrangement are likely to be made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL) : (a) There are 52022 cases pending before various courts as on 31-12-2002.

(b) to (d) The field offices of EPFO have been instructed to monitor the cases for early disposal.

Abolition of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

5072. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposals with Government to abolish the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented in various States;

(b) whether there are also proposals to allot the funds to the States as they are better equipped to meet the local needs; and

(c) if so, by when it would be given effect to?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.